Reception Room

COTTON CHATS

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ANTICIPATING THE CLOSE OF THE EUROPEAN WAR

our English friends are already looking to the future of cotton manufacturing with prophetic eyes.

At the annual meeting of the Textile Institute in Manchester, England, about May first, Sir William Mather, chairman of Mather & Platt, Ltd., was elected President.

After the usual routine business a paper was read by Mr. Oscar S. Hall, M. I. Mech. E., of Bury. The following is from an abstract printed in the Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England, May 15th.

"THE COMING OF THE AUTOMATIC LOOM"

It was not intended (said Mr. Hall) to deal with any particular type of automatic loom, nor to compare one system of automatic looms with another.

At the beginning it was necessary to be satisfied that a satisfactory automatic loom had been designed and constructed from a mechanical point of view.

He thought that the day of automatic looms in this country had dawned, that we were on the eve of a quicker development than had hitherto been experienced.

They must not overlook the dead weight of prejudice which had worked and still did work against the automatic loom. Automatic looms would lose nothing in appreciation if they could be put under the care of weavers in a new district who did not know but that they were the only system of looms in general use.

Incidentally he would touch upon the two kinds of automatic looms, the weft-changer and the shuttle-changer, simply to record the impression which he had come to long ago, after many experiences, that the future lay absolutely and entirely with the weft changer.

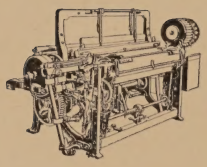
To approach nearer the practical, the essence of his paper. In his view the weaving industry of this country was on the eve of a great change. Many and various were the factors tending to weigh down the balance more and more to the advantage of the automatic loom. Not

only were the technical advances, but the changes in social legislation and conditions were steadily ensuring that the automatic loom should come into its own.

Let them take the National Insurance Act: For 1000 automatic looms they might assume 50 operatives were required; for 1,000 ordinary looms 200 operatives. At present within the weaving industry there was only Health Insurance; it was only a question of a short time when unemployment insurance would be added. The saving now would pay interest on part of the necessary greater capital expenditure, and on a greater part when the provisions of the Act increased their hold on the weaving industry.

To take the Workmen's Compensation Act: The charge was a percentage on wages, therefore there was a further saving on this score with automatic looms.

War bounties: The man with automatic looms had a less aggregate to pay in proportion to his production. The tendency also at present was for a higher remuneration of labour, and the possibility was increased of this tendency becoming effective by reason of a shortage. There was, owing to the war, a shortage of labour in many mills. Higher wages ever brought more labor-saving machinery into existence. Further, there was the possibility of allowing looms to run after the operatives had left the mill. About two years ago he stood in a small department of a mill. There were 60 automatic looms. A man and a woman attended to them; the man had 35 and the woman 25 looms. They went to dinner. He stayed behind. The looms were left running. In half an hour he counted the looms still running; there were forty!



IN TIME OF WAR
PREPARE FOR PEACE

With business again upon a peace-footing, should there be a general adoption of automatic looms in England, as foreshadowed in the preceding paper it behooves the cotton mills of this country to be sure that their equipment of machinery is equal to that of the English mills if they are to meet competition.